

The twenty examples received from Thursday Island do not differ either in markings or sculpture from those found so plentifully at Cape York and Albany Island, North Australia.

NOTE ON AN UNDETERMINED SPECIES OF LALAGE.

BY E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., &c.

LALAGE.

Lores, and all the upper surface of the head, neck, back, wings, and tail, black, with a faint greenish-metallic gloss, primary coverts and shoulders black; median coverts white, with black shaft-line; secondary coverts black, with white tips; scapulars more white than black; inner secondaries black, with a white margin, becoming very narrow towards the tips, a scarcely perceptible line of white margining the median portion of the outer web of some of the inner primaries; wings below blackish-brown, a band of black on the under margin, a few of the feathers mottled with white, rest of the under coverts and the basal portion of all the quills white on the inner webs, the white on each ending abruptly about the middle of the feathers, except on the primaries where it is of less extent. Chin, sides of the face, below the eye, lower half of the ear-coverts, a linear spot on the lower eyelid, and the whole of the under surface and under the tail-coverts white; the bases of the feathers of the body slaty; bill, black; legs, bluish-black. Rump, ashy-grey, tipped with white; upper tail-coverts, dark bright ashen-grey, slightly darker along the shafts; tail black; the outer three feathers on either side largely tipped with white, the fourth with a very narrow margin of white at the tip. Total length (in the flesh) 7 inches; wing, 3·3; tail, 3·2; tarsus, 1 inch; bill from forehead, 0·75; from nostril, 0·45.

This species comes near to *L. atrovirens*, but is smaller, the plumage soft and fluffy, the rump is of a bluish-grey tint, and the outer three feathers on either side largely tipped with white; the wings short; under tail-coverts long; it agrees neither with Mr. Sharpe's description of *Symmorphus nævia*, nor *S. leucopygialis*; it is not improbable that *S. nævia* is the ♀ of *S. leucopygialis*, nevertheless, we have specimens of both species in the Museum. I am inclined to the belief that all three belong to one and the same species.*

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Figian Fossils.—Mr. Macleay read the following extracts from a letter he had received from A. Boyd, Esq., Waidau, Figi, in answer to enquiries respecting the Figian Fossils described by the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods at the last monthly meeting:

“Respecting the fossils, I sent you all I had, and I fear it would pay neither of us to go for more. I should have to make a journey of some 120 miles to get to the place, and the cost of carrying such heavy things to the coast, distant about 40 miles by road would be great.

“I first met with these fossils on the summit of a hill 25 miles from Nadi, called Kow-balann, 1,350 feet (approximate) above sea level.”

To this Mr. Boyd appends the following note: “The rock containing them was called by the natives “Vatu-cakau,” (chacrau), or literally “Reef Rock.” Mr. Boyd goes on to say, “Those you have however, were found further in the interior, near the Government Camp, and about 200 feet above sea level. The country is greatly broken up in hills and valleys, running in no general direction, and resembling on an immense scale the

* Since the above was written I find a new species has been described from the South Sea Islands, which is probably the same.